

# **PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT - BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS**

**The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners was held on Monday, September 24, 2007, in the District office, 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.**

**Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Vice-Chair Ann Polacek, Commissioners Brian Choiniere, William Mageau, Thomas Partridge, Adrien Trudeau, and Dennis Whitman**

**Members Absent: Commissioner Brian Choiniere**

**Also in Attendance: Theodore Garille, General Manager; William Bernstein, General Counsel**

**Chairman Palmisciano opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Good and Welfare of the District**

**A. PUC Data Request- Docket No. 1725**

**Ms. Allaire reviewed the information, noting for August there were 65 residential customers shut off, these are standard customers not protected customers. The average balance for those customers was just over \$106.00. We sent out for the next period a little over 1,000**

disconnection notices. September and October are fairly active months. Our account is in good shape, we really don't have a lot that are 60 days past due, a lot are 30 days. We are in good shape as we head into the moratorium. Many people pay by the disconnection notices.

Chairman Palmisciano asked if this was about 25% of our customers and Ms. Allaire stated that it was approximately 25%.

Ms. Polacek asked what was decided upon for the seasonal residences.

Ms. Allaire stated we do not treat them differently than any other customer. We do not disconnect for the season anymore. We don't do it for the water either. Ms. Polacek wanted to know what we do about freeze ups. Ms. Allaire stated that they can shut the water off in their homes but we don't shut down an entire system. There is only one section that is not frost level deep and Michael drains that system but after that it's up to the customer.

Commissioner Whitman and Commissioner Partridge made a motion to receive and file the information, which was seconded by Commission Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **B. Exchange City (tabled from June)**

Mr. Garille gave a quick reminder that we are the electric company for Exchange City, we had looked at the dollars and the initial

contribution was \$5,000. Ms. Allaire contacted Division to get an opinion as to whether or not they would support our support of Exchange City, but unfortunately Division thought they could not support the use of rate payer money to do this. It would not fall within the parameter of conservation demand site management. We could put it under donations but our total donation budget for the year is \$2,000. There is nothing really to discuss at this point other than contacting Mr. Pacheco and letting him know we cannot use the DSM funds to do this. Chairman Palmisciano stated this is basically a dead issue.

#### **C. Correspondence / Thank You Cards**

Mrs. RI, Michele Bouchard was a candidate in the Mrs. USA Pageant and sent a thank you card for our support. Ms. Bounds was a candidate in the Miss RI USA pageant and thanked us for our support.

Michael Wood, Town Manager sent us a letter thanking us for our help with Bronco Scoreboard. Set two poles and helped to lift the scoreboard. We used our employees and trucks to pick up sign, helped them run underground wire. Had a great deal of involvement in this. We have also appropriated \$12,000 in rebates for the hockey rink as well.

Commissioner Mageau made a motion to receive and file the information, which was seconded by Commission Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **D. Newsletter**

**This is the second newsletter and it's very nice and enjoyed by all**

**Commissioner Partridge made a motion to receive and file the information, which was seconded by Commission Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

#### **E. Sneakers**

**Pictures handed out of all the sneakers taken down off of wires all over town. Our trucks went out and removed them all. One pair of sneakers had been up there so long there was a huge hornet's nest in one of the sneakers.**

#### **F. Library Plaque**

**We have appropriated \$20,000 of DSM funds for energy conservation at the new library. We also took out all the old overhead poles and there will be under ground conductors installed. To show their appreciation the Library Commission has decided to name their west walkway for the Pascoag Utility District.**

**Mr. Partridge made a motion to add item G to the agenda. Item G is Public Power Week. Mr. Whitman seconded that motion. The vote is unanimous.**

#### **G. Public Power Week**

**There are several activities planned for the month of October.**

### **Night Light**

**Program at Ashton Court, Bradford Court and Stillwater Heights.**

**Activities are planned for the Austin T. Levy School and an Open House at**

**The Pacoag Utility District. Also advertised was that our hours have**

**changed and we are open on Thursday nights now until 7:00 PM.**

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

#### **• Regular Meeting – August 27, 2007**

**Commissioner Whitman made a motion to approve all minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mageau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

### **4. Committee Comments**

**No committee comments.**

### **5. Unfinished Business**

#### **A. Update Well #5**

**Mr. Garille stated we are waiting on the delivery of the pump. The**

last test on the water passed and everything seems to be ok. As soon as the pump arrives the variable frequency drive to control that pump which also qualified for Demand Site Management Funds. We made a couple of other small change's, we saved about \$1500 on the surge suppressor by not accepting the one that was in there and putting in one of our own for the whole building. As soon as it arrives and it's installed we're good to go. There will have to be some road grading and finishing but that has not been turned over to us yet. One of the neighbors is concerned about the road and wants us to grade it remove boulders now and do it again at the end. Financially we cannot support that. The road is passable and as long as it is returned to at least as good as condition if not better than when we started we have met our obligation. The well should be on line before the snow flies. This well should meet 20% of our needs which means that would be 20% less from Harrisville.

Mr. Bernstein stated that the 20% is a one year restriction from the DEM and as long as we don't disturb the wetlands or protected habitats, we are allowed to increase our output up to capacity.

## **B. Update on STAG Grant**

Handouts provided to Commissioners on financials of STAG Grant. Page 1 is a summary. After meetings with the contractor and engineer there were some unexpected expenses that occurred with ledge an additional \$42,845 was identified in expenses. The STAG Grant is 55% STAG money and 45% district money. A payment

request was made for \$93,363 and we also have 2nd request in for \$65,000 for final progress on well. There is \$29,000 left available to us in STAG money. Page 2 explains that we have paid to date \$471,147 on well. As of last progress report there is a balance to finish of \$103,000. We have \$65,000 coming from STAG Grant plus an addition \$28,000 but will still leave us with a shortfall of about \$9,200. That is provided there are no additional expenses. To date, the District out of its own funds has paid \$36,967 of its own dollars with the possibility of an additional \$9,200. We are looking at close to \$50,000 that the District will be paying. Have not had to bond any of that, there is no debt.

Chairman Palmisciano asked about the possibility of some of that money coming back. Ms. Allaire stated that STAG funds may off set some of the districts out of pocket costs.

Commissioner Trudeau made a motion to receive and file the information the information on the STAG Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polacek. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **C. Special Project 2006A**

Mr. Garille stated there is not much to report. Have been several more regulatory hurdles cleared in MA. Everything is on track.

## **6. New Business**

## **A. PUD Member / Burrillville Public Safety Commission**

**Mr. Garille stated that Burrillville is forming a Safety Council. They propose one member from each fire district and one from Pascoag Utility. Maybe one of the commissioners would like to serve.**

**Tom Partridge stated he would serve on this committee. Mr. Garille will submit his name.**

## **7. Financial Reports**

### **• Electric Department – July 2007**

**Ms. Allaire stated that every line item is under budget. Every category**

**is well under its budget. Commissioner Trudeau made a motion to receive**

**and file, which was seconded by Commissioner Whitman. The vote in favor**

**was unanimous.**

## **8. Public Comment**

**There was no public comment.**

## **9. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Whitman made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Mageau and Commissioner Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous. Chairman Palmisciano adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.**